



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Public Safety Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312

October 5, 2017

8:00 AM

Attendance

Shari Cantor, Mayor
Leon Davidoff, Chair
Chris Barnes
Dallas Dodge
Beth Kerrigan
Denise B. Hall
Ben Wenograd
Chris Williams

Staff

Matt Hart, Town Manager
Gary Allyn, Fire Chief
Tracey Gove, Police Chief
Daniel Coppinger, Assistant Police Chief
Peter Privitera, Director of Finance
Michael Sinsigalli, Assistant Fire Chief
Richard Winn, Assistant Fire Chief

Invited Guest

Theresa Atwood, CT Health Enterprises/Quick Med Claims

Members of the Public

1. Call to Order: Chairman Davidoff called the meeting to order at 8:03 am.
2. Communications: Chairman Davidoff acknowledged receipt of the minutes from the August 10th and September 26th meetings.
3. Police Update: Chief Gove updated the committee on various police department activity. An injunction has been filed with the court against Los Imperios in an effort to enforce the entertainment ordinance. He reviewed the status of the Police Explorer Program, citing it has dwindled due to staffing issues as well as diminishing cadet interest. He advised that the department would look into a revamping of the program in the future and report back to the committee. Car

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break-ins and thefts are still occurring in town; the department continues to handle these cases.

The department has received two fully funded grants for FY2018-FY2019: DUI and Underage Drinking. These grants do not require a Town match and will be presented at the October 24th Town Council meeting.

Chief Gove also discussed personnel updates with the committee. Frank Fallon will be retiring at the end of the month. There are critical vacancies the department needs to fill. Promotions will also take place in the department. Redeployment of officers will continue in an effort to mitigate overtime costs and grant time off requests.

4. Fire Update: Chief Allyn updated the committee on recent fire activity. There have been 12 structural fires since June 2017 and 952 calls since January 2017. Paramedics have been credentialed and are available on all shifts at all stations in town. LT Smith highlighted comparative figures and will distribute it to the Committee. Fire prevention week begins next week. The committee is invited to attend a Code Save celebration next week.

Regarding personnel updates, Chief Winn will be retiring at the end of the month. The committee extends its congratulations and thanks to Chief Winn.

The committee continued the discussion on the Town's write off policy for paramedic service (ALS). Finance Director Peter Privitera explained the current write-off policy to the committee. Theresa Atwood addressed concerns of the committee on recent billing issues as well as draft options on how to alleviate the financial burden for residents. Currently, billing for 135 ALS calls is on hold until the committee makes a decision. The goal of the committee is to revise the write-off policy to ensure that the financial burden to the patient is generally equivalent to what it would be under a bundle-billing scenario with AMR. The committee instructed staff to redraft the write off policy to achieve this goal, and to consider options on how the Town could reimburse patients with out-of-pocket expenditures greater than what they would have experienced under a bundle-bill arrangement. Staff will present its recommendations at the November 2nd committee meeting.

By consensus, the Committee agreed to postpone its discussion of the financial projections for the ALS program until the next meeting.

5. Other Business: none.
6. Adjournment: Chairman Davidoff adjourned the meeting at 9:05 AM.